

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01
AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W
-----161357Z 063554 /46

P R 161337Z FEB 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5250

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, GATT, UK

SUBJECT: UK VIEWS ON MFA

SMITH, SHEPHERD, KRAMER, BREW AND EMBOFF TARRANT MET WITH
PETER HUDSON (DEPT OF INDUSTRY), LIZ LOWNES (DEPT OF INDUSTRY)
AND ERIC WRIGHT (DEPT OF TRADE) IN LONDON AFTERNOON OF
FEB 9 TO DISCUSS UK VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE OF MFA AND EC PROGRESS
TOWARD REACHING MANDATE ON RENEWAL. THE FOLLOWING UK VIEWS
EMERGED:

A) UK WOULD NOT OBJECT TO GATT D-G LONG CALLING TEXTILES COM-
MITTEE MEETING SHORTLY BEFORE MARCH 8, EARLIEST DATE WHEN EC
MANDATE COULD REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED, AND BELIEVED THAT EC
ALSO WOULD NOT OBJECT. HOWEVER, THEY FELT IT WOULD BE
HELPFUL IF MEETING COULD BE DELAYED A FEW DAYS AFTER MARCH 8
TO ALLOW EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REASONABLE TIME TO CONSIDER
MATTER DURING COUNCIL SESSION WHICH IS NOW EXPANDED,
ACCORDING TO HUDSON, TO RUN MARCH 7-9.

B) BASIC SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS FOR COMMISSION ARE, IN
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DESCENDING ORDER OF UK ESTIMATE OF DIFFICULTY OF RESOLU-
TION (AND PERHAPS IMPORTANCE) WITHIN EC, (I) CUMULATIVE
CONCEPT, (II) BASE LEVELS, AND (III) DIFFERENTIAL RATES
FO GROWTH.

C) IN UK VIEW, COMMISSION REALIZES THAT MOST OF THE
"THEMES" PRESENTED DURING LAST TC MEETING ARE (I) NOT

ACCEPTABLE TO LDC'S IF PRESENTED FOR WRITTEN OR PUBLIC APPROVAL BY TC AND (II) ARE SUSCEPTIBLE OF SOLUTION (EXCEPT BASE LEVELS, WHICH ARE SPELLED OUT CLEARLY IN ANNEX B) WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PRESENT MFA. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF POOR COMMISSION RECORD IN INITIATION OF RESTRAINTS, IN HANDLING OF NEGOTIATIONS AND IN IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS, UK INDUSTRY AND AT LEAST TO PRESENT, UKG HAVE TAKEN POLITICAL POSITION THAT IMPLEMENTATION AND TEXT OF MFA MUST BE TIGHTENED BECAUSE OF PERCEIVED INABILITY OF EC NEGOTIATORS AND/OR COMMISSION TO QUOTE DELIVER THE GOODS QUOTE.

D) IN UK VIEW, IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY LEGALISTIC VIEWS TAKEN BY SOME BOTH IN COMMISSION AND IN MEMBER STATES WHO INSIST THAT ANUMBER OF STEPS (INCLUDING SOME TAKEN BY U.S.) ARE NOT PERMITTED BY LANGUAGE AND PRIOR INTERPRETATIONS OF MFA. WHEN U.S. DEL WONDERED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF MEMBERS TATES SIMPLY AGREEING TO DISAGREE AMONG THEMSELVES ON LEGAL QUESTIONS WHILE AGREEING ON GOING FORWARD WITH PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION LIKE THE U.S. HAS DONE, UK SEEMED INTERESTED IN APPROACH. CATTO

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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